

Alcohol Use in Missouri



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Behavioral Health



Epidemiology
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April is Alcohol Awareness Month (<https://www.ncadd.org/aam>). Excessive alcohol use, including underage drinking and binge drinking, can lead to increased risk of serious health problems, risky behavior, and costs to society.

Alcohol use in Missouri

Alcohol is the most commonly used substance in Missouri by both adults and youth.

- Just over half of adults (55.5%) report using alcohol in the past 30 days¹
- 26.4% of adults report drinking 5+ drinks in one sitting in the past 30 days¹
- An estimated 14.2% of youth in grades 6-12 report use in the past 30 days²
- 5.6% of Missouri youth report drinking 5+ drinks in one sitting in the past 2 weeks²

Availability to Youth

Alcohol is perceived as accessible to youth by both parents and students, and parents of 6-12 grade children identified alcohol as the substance they are most concerned about for youth in their communities.³

- 99% of Missouri parents report that they think it is easy or very easy for a 6-12 grade child in their community to get alcohol³
- Approximately 2 out of 5 (39%) parents are aware of adults in their communities who allow underage drinking in their home³
- Just over half (50.7%) of students report that it is easy or very easy to get alcohol²

Consequences of Alcohol Misuse

In 2015, there were 11,989 treatment admissions for alcohol.⁴ The estimated cost of Alcohol Use Disorder in Missouri is \$4.5 Billion Annually⁴. Alcohol misuse leads to numerous hospital admissions, arrests, and traffic crashes each year.

- 2,790 alcohol-related hospital admissions and 15,339 alcohol-related ER visits without a hospital stay in 2014⁴
- 22,815 DUI arrests and 6,320 arrests for liquor law violations in 2015⁴
- 152 people were killed in traffic crashes involving intoxicated drivers and 2,753 were injured in 2015⁴

Links to additional alcohol related data and information for the state, as well as resources for those seeking help or treatment can be found here: <https://dmh.mo.gov/ada/>

¹ National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012-2014

² Missouri Student Survey, 2016

³ Parent Survey, 2016

⁴ Status Report, 2016 <https://dmh.mo.gov/ada/rpts/2016statusreport.html>